

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 93

By Harwell

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Beth Fortune upon her retirement from the position of vice chancellor for public affairs at Vanderbilt University.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of the members of this General Assembly to honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Beth Fortune, who recently announced her retirement as the vice chancellor for public affairs at Vanderbilt University, a position in which she has served with distinction since 2008; and

WHEREAS, as vice chancellor for public affairs, Ms. Fortune has served as chief spokesperson for Vanderbilt University and has led the university's comprehensive communications, government relations, and community initiatives; and

WHEREAS, under Beth Fortune's leadership, the Division of Public Affairs has significantly increased its responsibilities, expanding to include digital communications for the university's colleges and schools, undergraduate admissions marketing and communications, alumni publications, and athletic communications; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Fortune has led the award-winning public affairs team as it has provided media relations support as well as government and community relations services for Vanderbilt University Medical Center, a separate but closely aligned nonprofit entity; and

WHEREAS, immediately prior to assuming the role of vice chancellor, Ms. Fortune served as associate vice chancellor for public affairs at Vanderbilt University for eight years; and

WHEREAS, before she joined the administration at Vanderbilt University, Beth Fortune worked for Governor Don Sundquist, first as his campaign secretary during his successful bid

for office in 1994 and then as his press secretary, making her the first female gubernatorial press secretary in Tennessee history; and

WHEREAS, from 1985 until 1992, Ms. Fortune worked as a political reporter for the now defunct *Nashville Banner*; early in her career, she also worked as a principal in The Fulton Group, a former Nashville lobbying and public affairs firm, and as manager of public affairs for the Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority; and

WHEREAS, a leader in the Nashville community, Beth Fortune serves on a variety of community boards, including the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, the Nashville Convention and Visitors Corporation, the Nashville Public Library Foundation, the Nashville Opera Association, the Downtown Partnership, the Simon Youth Foundation, the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Conservancy of the Parthenon and Centennial Park, and the Women's Fund; she is also a member of the Tennessee Women's Forum; and

WHEREAS, following the election of Nashville Mayor Megan Barry in 2015, Fortune was named to the mayor's transition team, and since then, she has been appointed by the mayor to serve on the Livable Nashville Committee; and

WHEREAS, often duly recognized for her commitment to excellence, Ms. Fortune received the Spirit of Leadership award from the networking organization CABLE in 2006, was honored by the Nashville Women's Political Caucus in 2007, received the EXCEL award from the Nashville chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators in 2008, was inducted into the YWCA's Academy for Women of Achievement in 2011, and was included in the *Nashville Post's* "In Charge" issue in 2014 and 2016; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Anderson University, Beth Fortune earned her Master of Arts degree in Journalism and Public Affairs from American University; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Beth Fortune has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the sincere respect and admiration of her colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and honor Beth Fortune, commending her on her exemplary tenure as vice chancellor for public affairs at Vanderbilt University and wishing her much success in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.